XXVI. *A Letter from Mr.* Bernard, *of* Deptford, *to Mr.* Robertſon, *Lib. R. S. containing a ſhort Account of an Exploſion of Air, in a Coal-Pit, at* Middleton, *near* Leeds *in* Yorkſhire.

SIR,

Read Feb. 25, 1773. I Have at length procured, from my father, a memorandum made by him on the ſpot, of the effects of foul air ſet on fire, which I have copied exactly. If it affords you the leaſt ſatisfaction, I ſhall be well pleaſed, though late, in having fulfilled my promiſe.

I am, with great reſpect,

Yours,

Grove-Street, Deptford, January 12, 1773.

W. Barnard.

MEMO-

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MEMORANDUM.

BEING engaged in Middleton wood, the eſtate of —— Brandling, Eſq; near Leeds in Yorkſhire, in directing the falling and barking of a large quantity of timber bought of him in May 1758, I was witneſs of the following accident. Some miners, being to renew their operations on the ſhaft of a coal-pit, which, in a former year, had been ſunk to the depth of ſixty yards, in order to get through a ſtratum of very hard ſtone, thought proper to drill holes, and fill them with gunpowder. They afterwards, from the top, threw down fire to blaſt the ſtone, which made a report little louder than that of a piſtol; but the blaze, ſetting the foul air on fire, produced an effect truly ſhocking. The whole wood was ſhaken, the works at the mouth of the pit were all blown to pieces, and the exploſion was ſuch as cannot be deſcribed. The vacuum in the air was ſo conſiderable, that oak trees of a load or more each, at a great diſtance from the pit's mouth, that before ſtood upright, ſtooped towards the pit very much, and muſt have fallen wholly down, had not the air been inſtantly replaced. The bark-pullers, at a quarter of a mile from the pit, were ſo alarmed by the ſhaking and exploſion, that not one of them would have remained in the wood, had they attempted to blaſt it again.

N. B. The trees in the whole circuit ſtooped towards the pit.

THE END OF VOLUME LXIII. PART I.